

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claim 1 (Currently Amended): An imaging apparatus comprising:

an imaging optical system;

an image pickup unit which receives an object image passing through said imaging optical system and converts it to image information;

a shake detection unit which detects [[a]] shake detection information of said imaging apparatus;

a prediction arithmetic unit which calculates predictive shake information based on the detected shake detection information, and then calculates a predictive shake vector based on the predictive shake information and, determines a position as a start position of a correcting operation of said shake correction unit and at which predictive shake vector is canceled out;

a shake correction unit which corrects image blurring on said image pickup unit based on the shake detection information detected by said shake detection unit from the correcting-operation start position; and

a control unit which controls driving of said shake correction unit at the correcting-operation start position and corrects the image blurring~~[[.]]~~,

wherein a range of shake to be detected during an exposure time is predicted before exposure and said shake correction unit is moved to the correcting-operation start position, and subsequently the correcting operation and an exposure operation are performed.

Claim 2 (Withdrawn): The imaging apparatus according to claim 1 further comprising:

a storage unit which updates and stores shake detection information, together with information for imaging conditions, for a predetermined time interval detected by said shake detection unit, wherein

said prediction arithmetic unit calculates the predictive shake information based on the shake detection information and the information for imaging conditions stored in said storage unit, and determines the correcting-operation start position of said shake correction unit based on the predictive shake information.

Claim 3 (Withdrawn): The imaging apparatus according to claim 1 further comprising:

a pre-imaging operation unit which detects a pre-imaging operation of said imaging apparatus to output a signal indicating the pre-imaging operation; and

an imaging starting operation unit which detects an imaging starting operation of said imaging apparatus after the signal indicating the pre-imaging operation is output from said pre-imaging operation unit, and outputs a signal indicating the imaging starting operation, wherein

said control unit controls driving of said shake correction unit to the correcting-operation start position through output of the pre-imaging operation signal, and then controls driving of said shake correction unit through output of the imaging starting operation signal from said imaging starting operation unit, and corrects the image blurring.

Claim 4 (Withdrawn): The imaging apparatus according to claim 3, wherein said control unit controls driving of said shake correction unit to said correcting-operation start position between the time when the pre-imaging operation signal is output and the time when

the imaging starting operation signal is output, and controls driving of said shake correction unit through output of the imaging starting operation signal to correct the image blurring.

Claim 5 (Withdrawn): The imaging apparatus according to claim 3, wherein said prediction arithmetic unit calculates the predictive shake information after the pre-imaging operation signal is output and determines the correcting-operation start position, and stops processing of calculating the predictive shake information and processing of determining the correcting-operation start position after the imaging starting operation signal is output.

Claim 6 (Original): The imaging apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said control unit imparts the correcting-operation start position as area information having a range.

Claim 7 (Original): The imaging apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said control unit comprises:

a correlation storage unit which previously stores a correlation between the predictive shake information and the correcting-operation start positions; and

a correcting-operation start position determination unit which determines the correcting-operation start position through retrieval of the correlation stored in said correlation storage unit based on the predictive shake information.

Claim 8 (Original): The imaging apparatus according to claim 1 further comprising:

a correction range storage unit which previously stores a range in which the driving of said shake correction unit can be controlled;

a detection unit which detects whether a shake quantity of the shake detection information is beyond the range previously stored in said correction range storage unit; and

a warning unit which issues a warning when said detection unit detects the shake quantity that is beyond the range in the middle of controlling the driving of the shake correction unit.

Claim 9 (Withdrawn): The imaging apparatus according to claim 3 further comprising:

a correction range storage unit which previously stores a range in which the driving of said shake correction unit can be controlled;

a prediction unit which computes a predictive shake quantity from the predictive shake information, computes the predictive correction quantity to the predictive shake quantity, and predicts whether the predictive correction quantity is beyond the range previously stored in said correction range storage unit; and

when said prediction unit predicts that the predictive correction quantity will exceed the range,

at least one out of a treating unit which displays a warning; a treating unit which stops the operation of controlling the driving of said shake correction unit to the correcting-operation start position and invalidates the imaging starting operation; and a treating unit which stops the operation of controlling the driving of said shake correction unit to correct the image blurring and validates the imaging starting operation.

Claim 10 (Currently Amended): A shake correction method in an imaging apparatus including an imaging optical system; an image pickup unit which receives an object image passing through said imaging optical system and converts it to image information; a shake detection unit which detects a shake of said imaging apparatus; and a shake correction unit

which corrects image blurring on said image pickup unit based on the shake detection information detected by said shake detection unit, said shake correction method comprising:

calculating predictive shake information based on the shake detection information;  
calculating a predictive shake vector based on the predictive shake information;  
determining a position as a start position of correcting operation of said shake correction unit and at which predictive shake vector will be canceled out;

driving the shake correction unit to the correcting-operation start position based on said predictive shake vector; and

correcting the image blurring by controlling driving of said shake correction unit at the correcting-operation start position[[]],

wherein a range of shake to be detected during an exposure time is predicted before exposure and said shake correction unit is moved to the correcting-operation start position, and subsequently the correcting operation and an exposure operation are performed.

Claim 11 (Withdrawn) (Currently Amended): The shake correction method in the imaging apparatus according to claim 10 further comprising ~~the steps of:~~

updating and storing shake detection information, together with information for imaging conditions, for a predetermined time interval detected by said shake detection unit;

calculating predictive shake information based on the stored shake detection information and the information for imaging conditions; and

determining a correcting-operation start position of said shake correction unit based on the predictive shake information.

Claim 12 (Withdrawn) (Currently Amended): The shake correction method in the imaging apparatus according to claim 10 further comprising ~~the steps of:~~

detecting a pre-imaging operation of said imaging apparatus;  
controlling driving of said shake correction unit to the correcting-operation start position;  
detecting an imaging starting operation of said imaging apparatus; and  
correcting the image blurring by controlling the driving of said shake correction unit.

Claims 13-44 (Canceled).

Claim 45 (Previously Presented): The imaging apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the prediction arithmetic unit calculates the predictive shake vector further based on focal length information of the imaging optical system.

Claim 46 (Previously Presented): The shake correction method in an imaging apparatus according to claim 10, wherein the calculating a predictive shake vector further includes calculating the predictive shake vector based on focal length information of the imaging optical system.